(b) the time by which the remaining village panchayats are likely to be connected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of total of 24,752 village Panchayats, 22249 have been covered with Telephone facility. District-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) All the villages including village panchayats are likely to be covered with telephone facility by the end of IXth Five Year Plan.

Statement

Number of Gram Panchayats provided with VPT in Maharashtra State

S.No.	Field G.M.	Name of the Districts	Total Gram Panchayats	Telephone facility in Gram Panch-ayats
1	2	3	4	5
1.		Akola	936	936
2.		Amravati	804	685
3.		Bhandara	1046	845
4.		Buldhana	828	812
5.		Chandrapur	804	655
6.		Gadchiroli	458	279
7.		Wardha	481	481
8.		Yeotmal	1123	779
		Sub Total	6480	5472
9.		Raigad	660	660
10.		Ratnagiri	768	499
11.		Sindudurg	388	314
		Sub Total	1816	1473
12.		Nasik	1224	1175
13.		Dhule	962	856
		Sub Total	2186	2031
14.		Jalna	557	557
15.		Beed	924	636
16.		Latur	637	637
17.		Osmanabad	544	429
18.		Nanded	1163	1060
19.		Parbhani	1073	806
		Sub Total	4898	4125
20.		Jalgaon	1062	1062
21.		Sangli	631	588
22.		Satara	1213	1083
23.		Solapur	931	931
24.		Ahmednagar	1160	1160
25.		Aurangabad	693	693
26.		Thane	882	820
27.		Kolhapur	913	913
28.		Nagpur	710	710
29.		Pune	1177	1003
		Total	24752	22064

[Translation]

STD/PCO Allotment Rules

1517. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to amend the rules regarding allotment of STD and PCO booths to handicapped persons and ex-servicemen to extend communications facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Meagre Amount Spent on Passenger Amenities

1518. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the neww-item captioned "Railways spent meagre amount on amenities";

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the amount spent on passenger amenities during each of the last three years out of the total revenue earned; and

(c) the reasons for allocation of inadequate amount for providing passenger amenities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Passenger Amenities at stations are provided as per norms based on the volume of passenger traffic handled. Allocation of funds for passenger amenity works has no relation with the revenue earned.

Railways are very much alive to the needs of the travelling public and the requirements have been taken

into account while making the allocation for the current year.

Expenditure incurred on passenger amenities during the last three years and allocation for the current year is as under :

Year	Rs. in crore
1994-95	73.34
1995-96	87.98
1996-97	87.96
1997-98	80.00

Issuance of Waiting List Tickets

1519. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for getting tickets in Wait List status by passengers in almost all North-East bound trains even on the first day of opening of reservation; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to sort out the problem in the interests of passengers of North-East Region?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) During the peak seasons such as Summer Rush, Pooja Rush and Christmas vacations, reserved accommodation in popular trians is in high demand and gets filled up within a short time. This phenomena is, however, restricted to the peak periods and during the lean period, accommodation remain available for much longer period. The waiting list position on important trains during rush periods is closely monitored and depending on the demand, additional coaches are attached to the extent possible.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephones

1520. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of waiting list for telephone connections upto June 30, 1997 in the country, state-wise;

(b) the policy of the Government to provide telephone connections to the people registered in waiting list;

(c) whether the Government are working on any action plan to allot telephone connections to all the people registered in waiting list by 30th June, 1996; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details of Waiting List, as on 30.6.1997 are given in the attached statement.

(b) to (d) Targets are set for provision of 29 Lakhs of new Telephone Connections in the Country during 1997-98. In many of the States, major portion of the Waiting List as on 31.3.97, will be cleared during 1997-98 by provision of new Telephone Connections and in case of the rest of the States, the Waiting List will be cleared during 1998-99 and there after. Necessary equipment and materials are being arranged to achieve the target.

Statement

Statement to be laid on the table of Lok Sabha vide part (a) of the unstarred question No. 1520 for 31.7.1997.

State-wise waiting list for telephone connections as on 30.6.1997

S.No.	Name of the State	Waiting List
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,66,604
2.	Assam	28,953
3.	Bihar	62,907
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	2,97,613
5.	Haryana	98,442
6.	Himachal Pradesh	51,499
7.	J & K	31,561
8.	Karnataka	1,99,049
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep U.T)	6,56,973
10.	Madhya Pradesh	60,198
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	3,23,511
12.	North-East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	14,178
13.	Orissa	40,838
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh)	2,12,599
15.	Rajasthan	1,73,254
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai & Pondicherry U.T.)	4,17,699
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1,53,771
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andeman & Nicobar Islands & Calcutta)	1,73,943
19.	Delhi	17,086
	Total	32,80,678